

A CRY FOR HELP FROM BELGIUM

Are You Tired of Giving?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE TIRED



By courtesy of N. Y. Tribune

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

Terrible Conditions Exist Today in Belgium—Prompt

Action is Necessary if Real Service is to be Rendered

OUT of misery and desolation there comes today from Belgium a pitiful appeal for aid. So terrible are conditions, so desperate the needs, that, in many instances, it is a matter of days only if the lives of Belgians are to be saved by help from America or sacrificed to German frightfulness.

Urgent cable messages are received each day from Europe telling of the desperateness of conditions, of the widespread destitution and suffering and urging immediate and generous action on our part. Nothing in the world's history is more tragic and terrible than the story of Belgium's invasion and persecution. It is a story that runs through all but four years, a story of violated womanhood, of persecuted children, of murder, pillage and destruction. However bad conditions may have been in the past, they are today infinitely worse—they are terrible beyond all power of description.

Due to German Frightfulness

This present situation of increased desperateness is due directly and entirely to the latest campaign of frightfulness launched by the Kaiser's hordes. Just as it has strained France almost to the breaking point, so has it placed a still heavier burden of crushing, grinding misery upon the Belgians. Sources from whence relief had come are now closed to them, for France and Great Britain must now give every atom of energy and ounce of resource to their own fight for existence.

America today is Belgium's only hope. Belgium is our ally, and never was there one more heroic or loyal. It is a nation that rings true; its people lived up to duty, sacrificed all save honor and bravely stood firm in the face of death until overcome by sheer numbers in whose ranks were treachery and murder.

Belgium now needs our help—not only for the future, but today. It is the most urgent necessities of life these victims of the Prussians ask us to send. Search your memory for a more worthy object or a better reason for our help. You can do your part to save lives if you act promptly. Join us in conveying a real message of loyal sympathy to Belgium by sending us today a generous contribution to relieve the suffering of that heroic country's war victims.

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IT is in the name of the Charities of the Queen of Belgium that we appeal to you in this emergency. Than Queen Elizabeth, martyr Queen, there is no figure nobler, more courageous or more devoted in all the records of the war. Since the first German guns sounded death and destruction for Belgium, Queen Elizabeth has stuck by her stricken people, worked for them, sacrificed for them and today she is a ministering angel to their sufferings and needs.

Belgium, free of German domination, is only a little strip of land held by the unconquerable army of that country. King Albert is at the head of his army in the field; Queen Elizabeth is with her people, sharing their dangers and hardships as she cares for them. Dressed in the uniform of a nurse, she is the actual working head of the committee which bears her name. She knows what the needs are and where they exist; it is by her own hands or personal direction that these needs are met.

Queen's Hospital at La Panne

At La Panne, the Queen has established a hospital of 1,500 beds which are always occupied. There the wounded soldiers are restored to health and given back to the Allies' fighting service. There the soldiers who are permanently maimed or blinded are cared for and eventually taught trades and occupations that again make them useful citizens. Also there is a department where artificial limbs are made for those crippled in battle.

While this is only one phase of Queen Elizabeth's work, we ask you if it is not worthy of our help. These soldiers of Belgium are still holding their place in the Allies' line, they are fighting for you and liberty and, "with backs to the wall," will "fight to the last man." Can we do less than aid them when the Germans have made them helpless?

Women, Children and Aged

But it is also the women, children and aged people of Belgium for whom their Queen is working. There are vast numbers of them who have lost everything on earth they possessed, who were fortunate to escape persecution and death at the hands of the Germans. For many months they have eked out a scant and cramped existence, but the latest German drive of frightfulness has closed to them practically every source of aid. Their plight is desperate and we say again that America is their only hope.

We can do a great deal for these sufferers if we act promptly. Won't you help by sending a generous contribution for them? It may be the direct means of saving a human life.

THIS appeal is made by the National Allied Relief Committee, Inc., on behalf of the American Committee Collecting for the Charities of the Queen of the Belgians, a sub-committee of the first-named organization. At the head of this Committee, the purpose of which is to aid the Belgian Queen's charities, is Mrs. Charles H. Marshall, of New York City. Associated with her in the work are Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan, and Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, of New York; Mrs. Bayard Thayer, of Boston, and Mrs. Marshall Field, of Washington.

We know these terrible needs exist today among the Belgians. We know they can be remedied by prompt and generous action on the part of Americans.

We ask you to send us a generous contribution today for the relief of these suffering people.



BACK HOME IN BELGIUM

A Belgian baby and its grandparents. The mother was killed by the Germans. The father is fighting today for you and liberty.

Make all checks payable to James A. Blair, Jr., Treasurer, National Allied Relief Committee, Inc., 2 West 45th Street, New York City.